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AUTHORITY

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF KUNG FU



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GENE
DAY

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**."

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

CHAMELEONS

"FROM BARREN WASTE TO LUSH BOUNTY, THE TERRAIN CHANGES... DESERT AND JUNGLE LIKE TWO DREAMS MERGING IN THEIR ABRUPT CLASH."

"AND, BROWN TO GREEN, MY FEVERISH EXPOSED THOUGHTS GIVE WAY TO A COOL MOOD OF MOIST AND SHELTERED TRANQUILITY."

"INDEED, THE CHANGE IN MYSELF IS INSPIRED BY THE CHANGING TERRAIN..."

"CHANGE, THEN, LEADS TO CHANGE."

DOUG MOENCH
WRITER

GENE DAY
ARTIST

JANICE CHIANG
LETTERER

CHRISTY SCHEELE
COLORIST

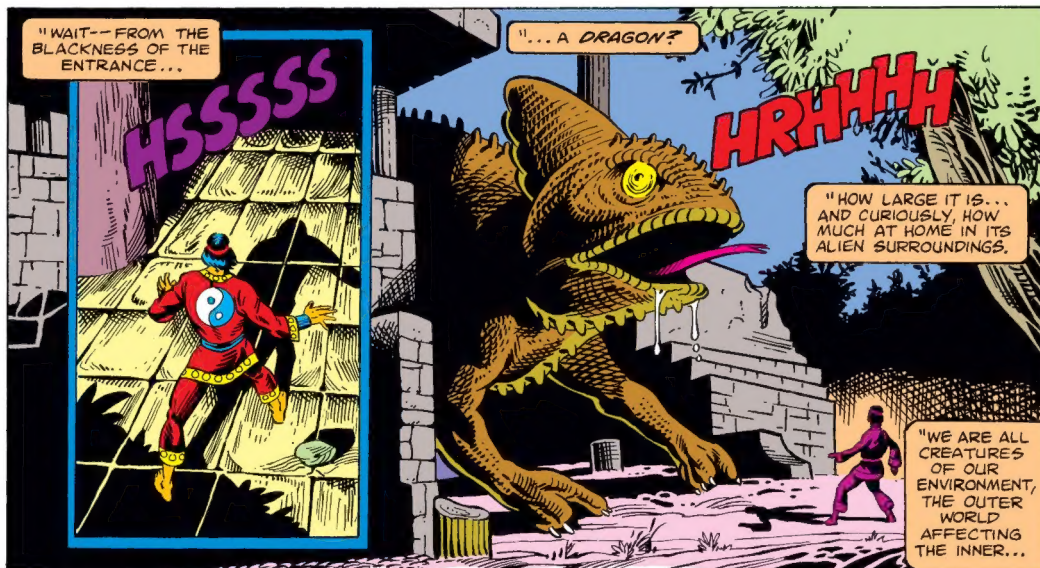
PENNY O'NEIL
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



"EH--? WHAT IS THIS?
ANOTHER CHANGE--AS THE
RICH, RIPE LIFE OF THE
JUNGLE YIELDS TO A BROWN
PLACE OF DECAY AND RUINS.

"AGAIN THERE IS A
CORRESPONDING CHANGE
IN MY THOUGHTS AND
FEELINGS; MY MOOD
GROWS DARKER NOW...



"WAIT--FROM THE
BLACKNESS OF THE
ENTRANCE...

"...A DRAGON?"

HRHHHH

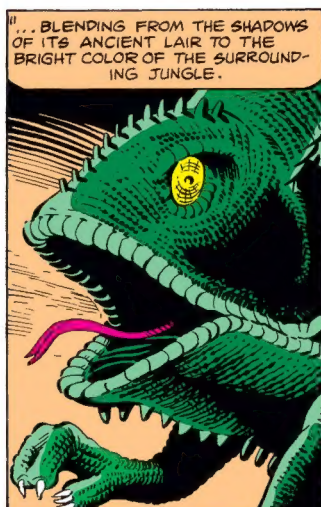
"HOW LARGE IT IS...
AND CURIOUSLY, HOW
MUCH AT HOME IN ITS
ALIEN SURROUNDINGS.

"WE ARE ALL
CREATURES OF OUR
ENVIRONMENT,
THE OUTER
WORLD
AFFECTING
THE INNER...



"YES--SEE! THE MONSTER ALSO
BEGINS TO CHANGE, ITS BROWN
HIDE SHIFTING TOWARD GREEN...

"...AS IT ADJUSTS
FROM DARKNESS
TO LIGHT...

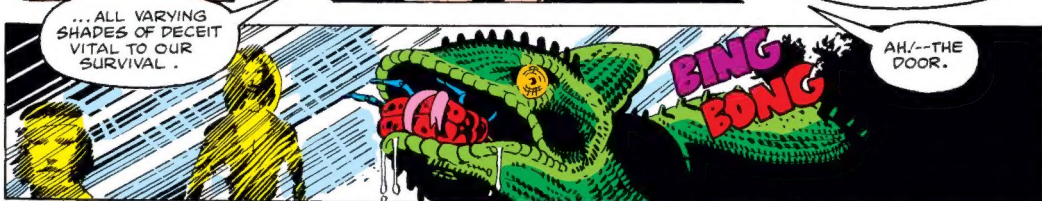
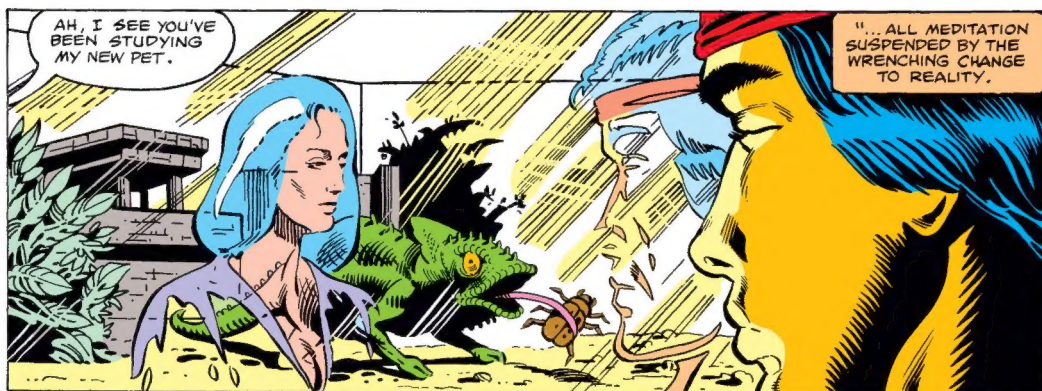
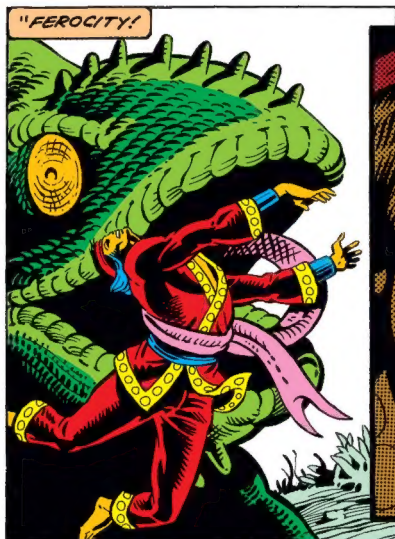


"...BLENDING FROM THE SHADOWS
OF ITS ANCIENT LAIR TO THE
BRIGHT COLOR OF THE SURROUND-
ING JUNGLE.



"WILL ITS ATTITUDE, LIKE MINE,
ALSO CHANGE? IF SO, FROM PON-
DEROUS DROWSINESS...TO WHAT?"

HRHHH







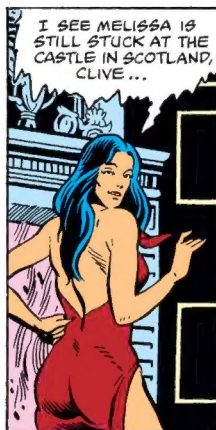
WH--? THIS IS THE DEFECTOR
--THE DARK ANGEL?

YES...AND TO WHOM
HAVE I THE PLEASURE...?



CLIVE RESTON,
AT YOUR HUM-
BLE SERVICE.

"...AND YET ABLE TO CHANGE
SWIFTLY, IT SEEMS ACCORD-
ING TO THE STIMULATION OF
HIS ENVIRONMENT.



I SEE MELISSA IS
STILL STUCK AT THE
CASTLE IN SCOTLAND,
CLIVE...



AH...WELL, NOW THAT
EVERYONE'S HERE, SHALL
WE GET ON WITH IT?

FIRST
ORDER
OF BUSI-
NESS...



IT IS MY DISTINCT
PRIVILEGE, MADAM, TO
BESTOW UPON YOU YOUR
NEW IDENTITY.

THANK YOU,
SIR DENIS.



"M/A
LESSING"--?



YOU'LL GROW ACCUS-
TOMED TO IT, I'M
SURE.



YES, I RATHER LIKE
IT ALREADY. IT'S SO
...BRITISH.



QUITE.

NEXT ORDER OF
BUSINESS--YOUR
DEBRIEFING
BY MI-6.



THEY TELL ME YOU'VE
REVEALED A NUMBER
OF SPY CELLS HERE
WITHIN BRITAIN, ONE OF
WHICH REQUIRES IM-
MEDIATE ATTENTION--



--BUT THAT YOU'D
PREFER CRACKING IT
WITH "FREELANCE
RESTORATIONS."

WITH
US.



WITH SHANG-
CHI. I SAW HIM
IN ACTION IN
ROME.



NEVERTHELESS, YOU
UNDERSTAND WE'RE
NO LONGER AFFILIATED
WITH MI-6 IN ANY
OFFICIAL CAPACITY.

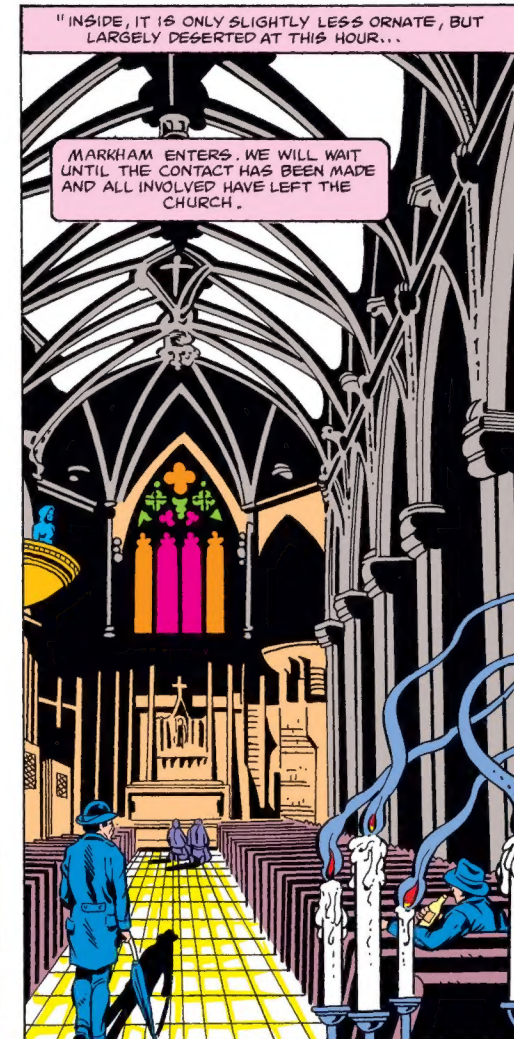
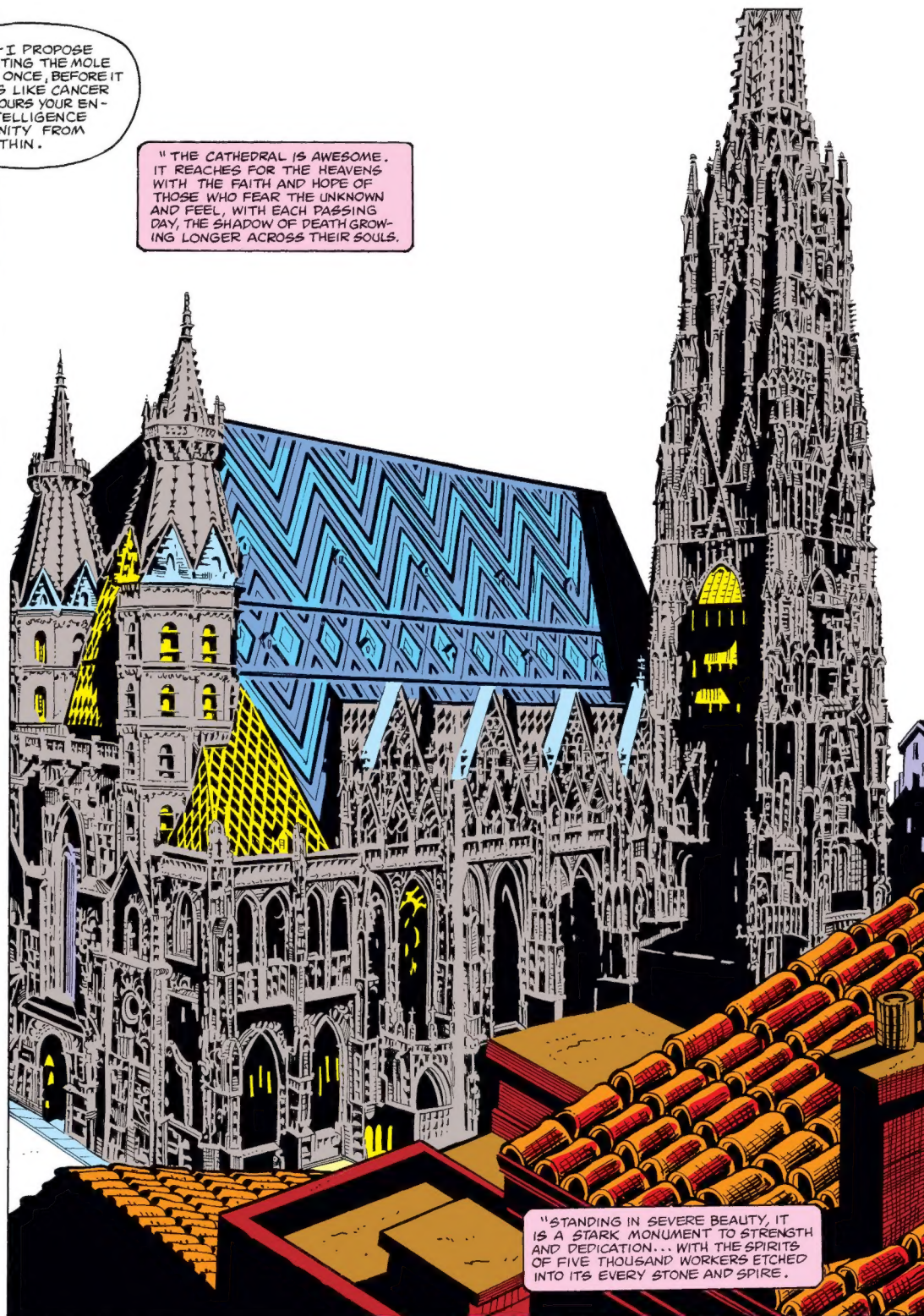
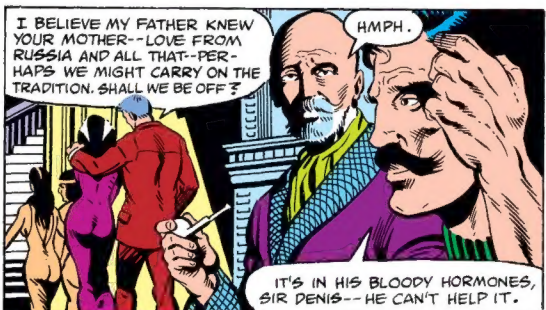


PERHAPS THAT'S
WHY I PREFER
YOU.



NOW--I PROPOSE ELIMINATING THE MOLE CELL AT ONCE, BEFORE IT SPREADS LIKE CANCER AND DEVOURS YOUR ENTIRE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY FROM WITHIN.

"THE CATHEDRAL IS AWESOME. IT REACHES FOR THE HEAVENS WITH THE FAITH AND HOPE OF THOSE WHO FEAR THE UNKNOWN AND FEEL, WITH EACH PASSING DAY, THE SHADOW OF DEATH GROWING LONGER ACROSS THEIR SOULS."





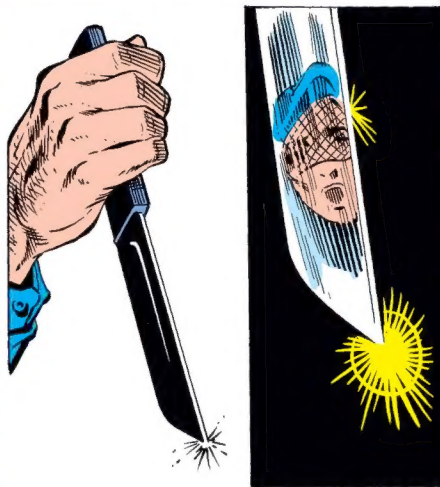
"FROM ABOVE, A LADY IN BLACK GAZES TOWARD THE ALTAR."



"SHE MOURNS NO ONE, BUT SIMPLY AND SILENTLY NODS."



"THE CANDLE FLAMES SUDDENLY DIP AND FLICKER... AND THERE IS A CHILL..."

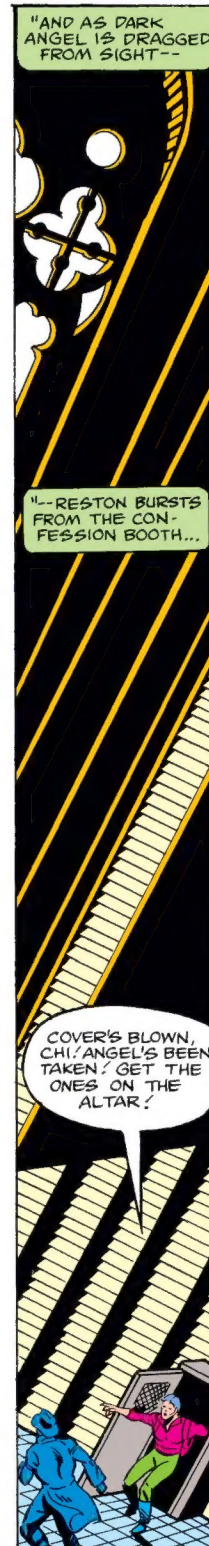


EASY, LADY ANGEL-- YOU HAVE ALREADY FALLEN FROM GRACE ONCE...



"...IT WOULD NOT DO TO REPEAT YOUR PERFORMANCE HERE AND NOW."

AGH-H!



"AND AS DARK ANGEL IS DRAGGED FROM SIGHT--"

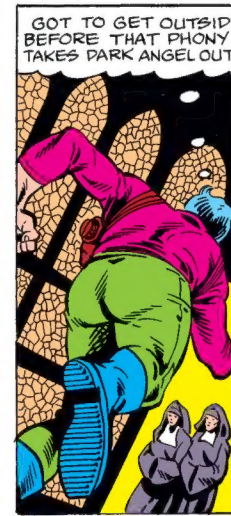
"--RESTON BURSTS FROM THE CONFESSION BOOTH..."

COVER'S BLOWN, CHI! ANGEL'S BEEN TAKEN. GET THE ONES ON THE ALTAR!



"LIKE A LIZARD SHEDDING ITS SKIN, I LEAVE THE BOTTLE, HAT, OVERCOAT, AND TWITCH BEHIND."

"THE DEMANDS OF SOBRIETY AND SPEED LIE AHEAD."



GOT TO GET OUTSIDE BEFORE THAT PHONY PRIEST TAKES DARK ANGEL OUT OF--

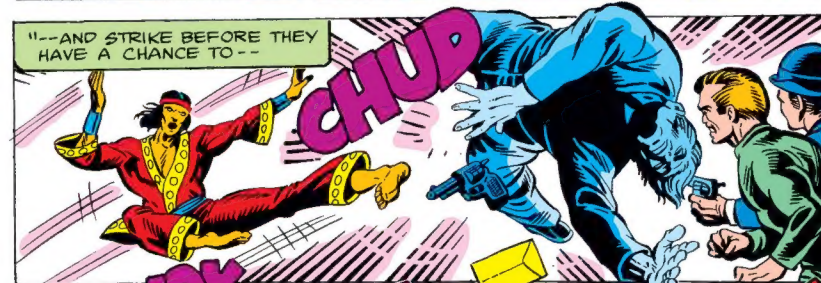


TERRIFIC--PHONY NUNS AS WELL!



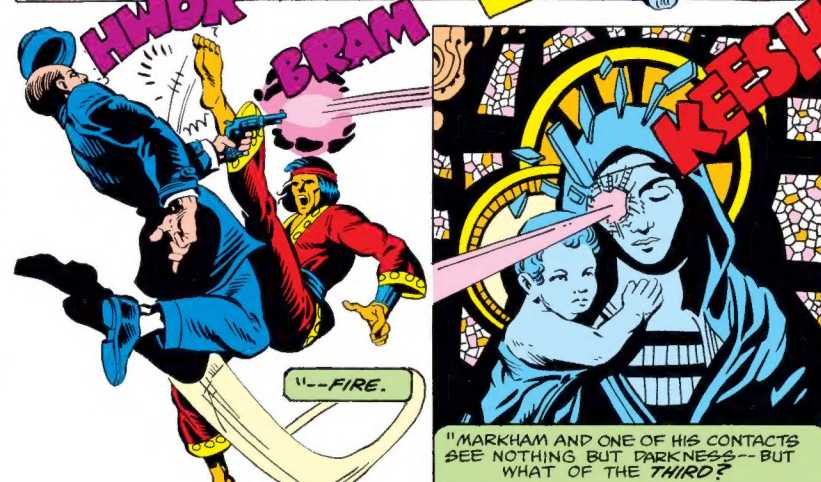
"THE FALSE WORSHIPPERS AT THE ALTAR SPIN GOLD METAL IN THEIR HANDS."

"I MUST INCREASE MY SPEED --"



"--AND STRIKE BEFORE THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO--"

CHUD



HWOK

BRAM

KEESH

"--FIRE."

"MARKHAM AND ONE OF HIS CONTACTS SEE NOTHING BUT DARKNESS-- BUT WHAT OF THE THIRD?"



"WHERE IS--"

PLASH



DOOSH

LISTEN UP, PENGUINS,
AND LISTEN UP GOOD!



FRAKT

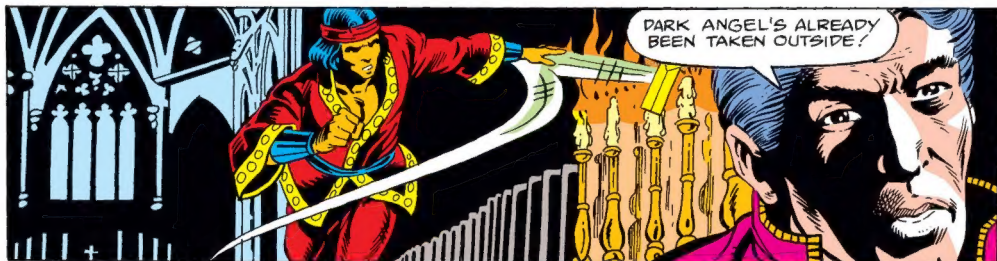
I DIDN'T FIND
MYSELF A SWEET
ANGEL JUST TO
LOSE HER THIS
QUICK!



"THE ENVELOPE CONTAINING
THE MISSILE SECRETS--!"

COME ON, CHI--
WE'VE LOST ENOUGH
TIME AS IT IS!

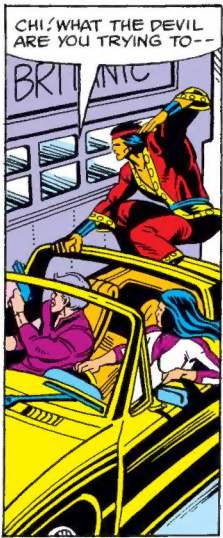
SKOP

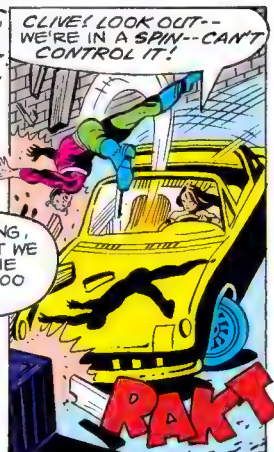
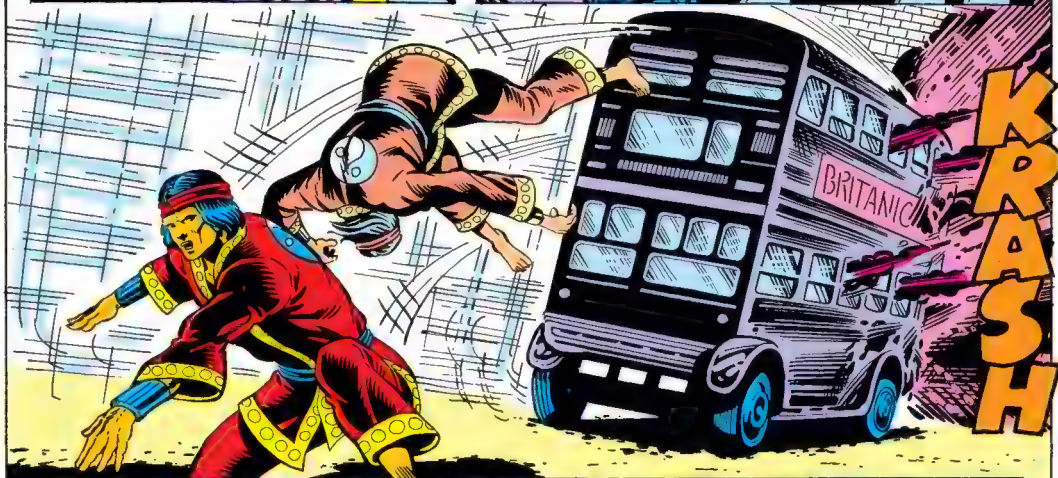
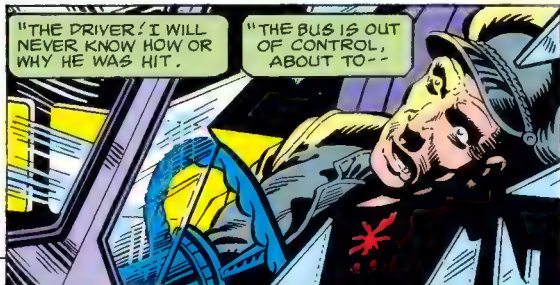
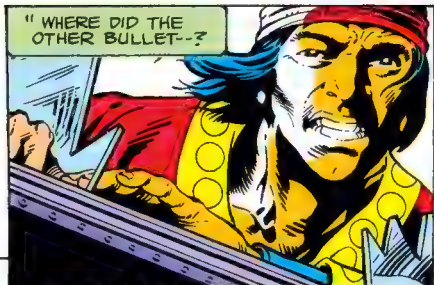


PARK ANGEL'S ALREADY
BEEN TAKEN OUTSIDE!



WE'VE GOT
TO REACH HER
BEFORE SHE
BURNS!







THE PIGS! NEARLY STRANGLED ME-- CAN BARELY TALK NOW--HOARSE...



"AND YET SHE DID WELL ENOUGH IN ADDRESSING THE DEPARTING LORRY.

"SMITH'S MAYFAIR TOWNHOUSE..."



WHY, MARKHAM? WHAT CAUSED YOU TO TURN YOUR COAT?

THE USUAL REASON, SMITH--IDEALISM.



"NIGHT: RESTON HAS ASSUMED THE GUARDING OF DARK ANGEL, FREEING ME TO SLEEP HERE AT SMITH'S TOWNHOUSE..."



"AND YET, SLEEP IS ELUSIVE--"



"--DISTURBED BY SLIGHT SOUNDS FROM SMITH'S OFFICE."



"DARK ANGEL--! BUT WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE? WHAT IS SHE LOOKING FOR--?"



"UNLESS IT IS--"

"WAIT SHE COMES THIS WAY!"



"I MUST HIDE..."

"YES... HERE IN THE FOYER, AMONG THE STATUES, I MUST BE STILL AS STONE UNTIL SHE--"

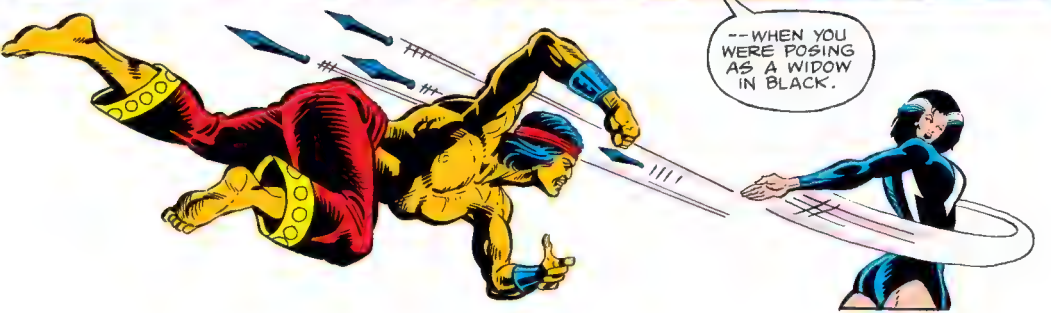


"NO--SHE IS SIMPLY LEAVING..."

"...AND MY CAMOFLAGUE HAS THEREFORE SERVED ITS PURPOSE..."



THE MISSILE DOCUMENTS WERE BURNED IN THE CATHEDRAL, DARK ANGEL. YOU EVEN LIT ONE OF THE CANDLES YOURSELF--



--WHEN YOU WERE POSING AS A WIDOW IN BLACK.



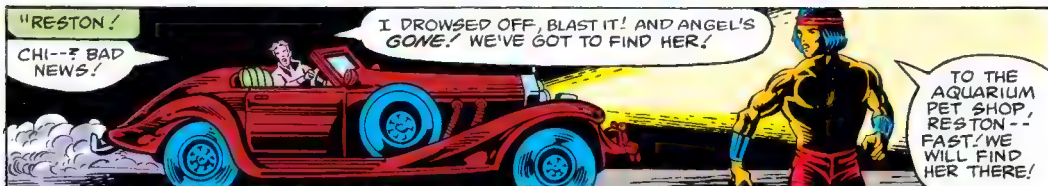
"THE BLADES
FIND NOTHING
BUT THE
STONE FLESH
BEHIND
ME."

"BUT DARK ANGEL..."



"...SHE HAS ALREADY FOUND
THE ESCAPE OF A FAST CAR..."

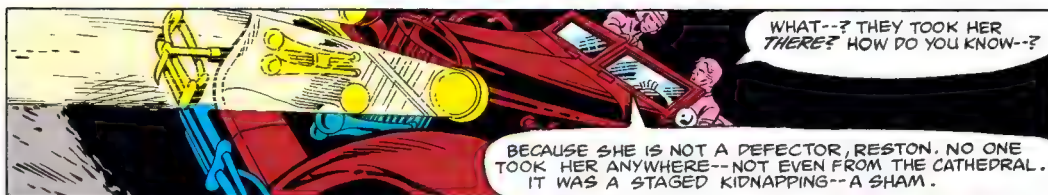
"YET EVEN AS SHE
DISAPPEARS INTO THE
NIGHT, ANOTHER CAR
APPROACHES..."



"RESTON!
CHI--F BAD
NEWS!"

"I DROWNED OFF, BLAST IT! AND ANGEL'S
GONE! WE'VE GOT TO FIND HER!"

"TO THE
AQUARIUM
PET SHOP,
RESTON--
FAST! WE
WILL FIND
HER THERE!"



"WHAT--? THEY TOOK HER
THERE? HOW DO YOU KNOW--?"

"BECAUSE SHE IS NOT A DEFECTOR, RESTON. NO ONE
TOOK HER ANYWHERE--NOT EVEN FROM THE CATHEDRAL.
IT WAS A STAGED KIDNAPPING--A SHAM."



"SHE IS A PLANT
--POSING AS A
DEFECTOR SO SHE
CAN INFILTRATE
BRITISH
INTELLIGENCE."

"SHE IS."

"WHAT?! BUT SHE
CAN'T BE--!"



"WE REACH
THE PLACE
IN MINUTES..."

"SHE INTENDED THIS PET SHOP
TO BE THE STAGE FOR ANOTHER
SHOW TOMORROW--EITHER
THAT OR A TRAP."

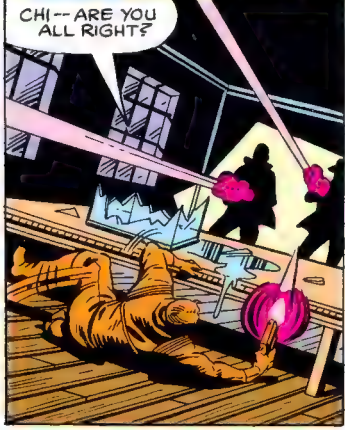
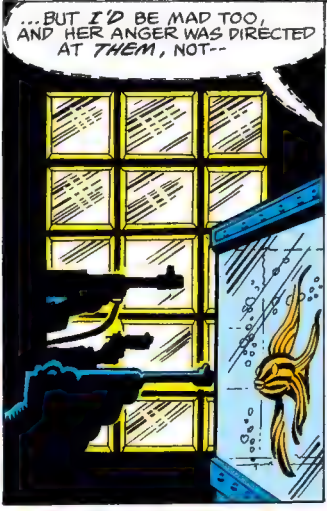
"THEN WE'LL ENTER THE TRAP A NIGHT
EARLY-- I JUST PICKED THE LOCK."

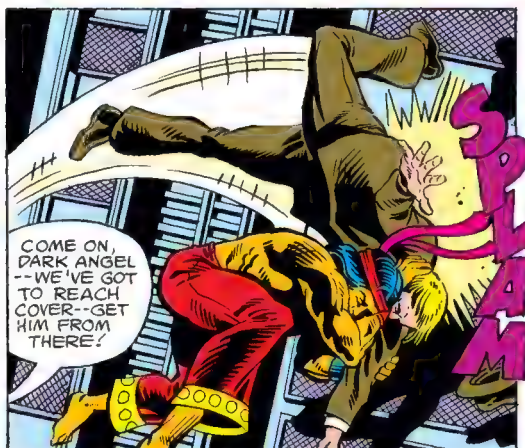


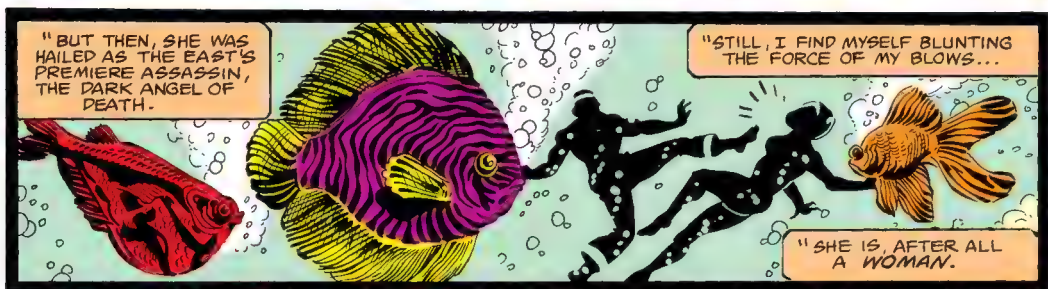
"BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE
SHE'S A PLANT, I MEAN, I'VE
LOOKED INTO HER EYES..."

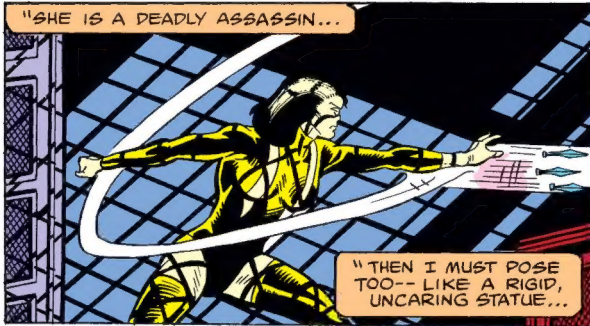
"EYES
CAN
LIE."

"NO-- NOT
TO ME, THEY
DON'T--"









"SHE IS A DEADLY ASSASSIN..."

"THEN I MUST POSE TOO-- LIKE A RIGID, UNCARING STATUE..."



"... WHOSE STONE FLESH SHOWS ONLY DISDAIN FOR HER WEAPONS."

HAAIII!



NOW, WOMAN...

"...YOUR WEAPONS ARE SPENT..."



"...AND YOU MUST FIGHT ME LIKE A MAN!"



"I MUST PROLONG THE POSE --PERMITTING HER TO STRIKE ME..."

VERY WELL, "MAN" WILL THIS DO?

SWOKK

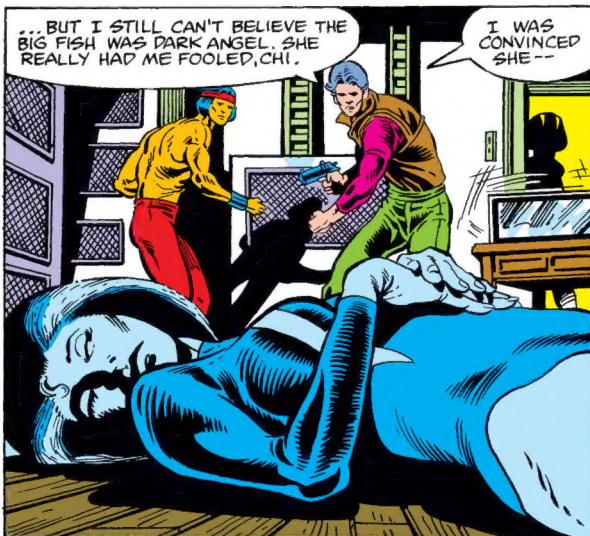
"I FALL BACK BEYOND THE POINT OF IMPACT, ABSORBING ONLY ENOUGH OF THE KICK TO MAKE IT BELIEVABLE..."

"NOW, WHILE HER
GUARD IS RELAXED--

SMWAKT

"AS SHE
BOASTED
TO
SMITH..."

"...IT WAS EASY
TO PENETRATE."





"BUT IT DOES NOT SIGNAL A THREAT. RATHER IT IS--"



"DARK ANGEL. ANOTHER ONE--?"



THE REAL ONE, RESTON.

"YES...IT IS CLEAR NOW. SHE CHANGED TOO MUCH AT THE LORRY..."



THE OTHER IS A **RGB DOUBLE**, CLIVE, A WOMAN OF THE SAME HEIGHT AND BUILD--COSMETIC SURGERY AND HAIR DYE--THE RUSE TO DISGUISE HER VOICE WITH HOARSENESS...



YES, THE RUSSIANS ARE BIG ON THAT, AREN'T THEY? THERE'S BEEN TALK OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD DOUBLES--AS MANY AS THREE OF THEM.



WE HEARD THE SAME TALK IN THE KREMLIN AS A JOKE--WHICH WAS PERHAPS NOT SO JESTING. AS FOR ME, THEY MADE THE SWITCH IN THE TRUCK, WHERE SHE WAS WAITING TO TAKE MY PLACE.

WHEN THE TRUCK LEFT, I WAS STILL IN IT--UNCONSCIOUS, CHLOROFORMED.



MY SWEET ANGEL! I **KNEW** YOU HADN'T TAKEN A FALL!

IF IT IS ROMANCE, YOU CRAVE, MR. RESTON, I AM ACCUSTOMED TO A MORE **SUBTLE** APPROACH.

YOU WILL HAVE TO ADJUST YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY.

"AND SO IT IS ALL A SHAM, EVEN THE DARK ANGEL'S FINAL PROTESTATIONS..."



"...AND ALL FOR THE SAKE OF APPEARANCE. WE ARE ALL CHAMELEONS. BUT OF THE MANY COLORS WE ALL WEAR, WHICH IS THE TRUE ONE? WHICH IS THE REAL RESTON? THE REAL LEIKO OR TARR OR SMITH?"

"AND WHO REALLY, AM I--?"

"EVEN THE SEA CHANGES COLOR...BUT THE SEA NEVER CHANGES."

NEXT:
THE RETURN OF
ZARAN THE WEAPONS
MASTER, IN--
DARK ANGEL'S KISS

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Doug and Mike:

I was deeply moved by MOKF #101, and would like to comment on it.

Shang-Chi is basically a nonviolent person, and I suppose pacifism is his ultimate ideal. However, the problem is that he does not occupy a closed environment; he is subject to the actions and vagaries of those around him. Because said actions often have a direct effect on his existence, he must continually choose between blind pacifism and altering his life's philosophy.

Such was the situation in #101. As much as Chi abhors violence, he is at least flexible and open-minded enough to realize that it is a preferable alternative to turning one's back on conscience and commitment, or to allowing even a former foe to come to harm.

And so, almost paradoxically, because he is willing to compromise his ethics toward a higher purpose, the spirit within him continues to rise and advance...

Kevin C. McConnell
118 Main Avenue
Warren, PA 16365

**Every yin has its yang, Kevin, as Shang-Chi has repeatedly learned, alternately to his delight or dismay.
That's life.**

Dear Doug, Mike, and Gene,

MASTER OF KUNG FU #100 was one heck of a good read. That's what I like about your stories, Doug, no matter which book it is — WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, DOC SAVAGE, INHUMANS, MOON KNIGHT, or MOKF — the story is satisfying, much like a good novel or movie or, better yet, a three-course meal.

"Red of Fang and Claw, All Love Lost" took me back to the Sax Rohmer books, which I always enjoy despite or maybe because of their period flavor. Especially evocative was the first chapter, "The Immortal Caravan," as conveyed through the device of Nayland Smith's journal. (Is there any hope of seeing direct adaptations of the Fu Manchu books as was, I believe, originally planned? Maybe in BIZARRE ADVENTURES?)

The Jack the Ripper connection was particularly interesting, and the way you gradually resolved the years-long drama was totally absorbing.

I look forward to #115, the *real* 100th anniversary issue. Till next month, keep happy.

Dale L. Cole
41, Whitecorss Road
Warrington
Cheshire, WA5 1LR
England

While anything is possible, our Cestrian friend, there are no current plans for adapting Rohmer's original novels. We will, however, be delving into that milieu from time to time in the future — and make that the near future...

(By the way, we couldn't resist flaunting a bit of newfound knowledge in our first sentence above. While attending a dinner party in Chicago the other night, Doug was speaking with a young woman from England whom he'd known for years, but was nevertheless nonplused when she referred to herself as a "stubborn Cestrian." Quite simply, she explained, a Cestrian is someone from Cheshire. Hope we got the spelling right, Dale.)

Dear Doug, Mike, and Gene,

He is a comics reader, has been since that muggy summer day in 1967 when he stepped into the only drugstore in a sleepy little tourist trap called Greenville, and exchanged twelve cents for a copy of DAREDEVIL #33. Since that time he's read thousands of comics, scores of titles. He has seen them come and he has seen them go.

For the longest time, MASTER OF KUNG FU was one of those he expected to go.

He gave the series a wide berth when it was first introduced. He liked Englehart and Starlin, but he was not too fired up about Fu Manchu. Besides, he told himself in a smugly superior way, the strip is obviously a carbon-copy of Carradine's *Kung Fu* TV series, just a calculating ploy to jump on the martial arts bandwagon and make some quick bucks. Darned thing probably won't even last a year.

Time passed. He weakened, finally buying MOKF #21. He got about what he expected: uninspired story, bland artwork. On the other hand, "Season of Vengeance" was the tail-end of a two-parter begun by a different writer; maybe the next issue or so wouldn't be so bad...

He hung in for another half-year. He bought the 50¢ GIANT-SIZE MOKF books and was intrigued by some of the things Moench and Gulacy were doing, but the regular series was just plodding

along from month to month. He was just about to bail out, figuring cancellation was just around the corner, when the "Next Issue" blurb in #28 made him change his mind. "Paul Gulacy rejoins Doug Moench," it said. "A dynamic new direction" — "slickly blistering action" — "dazzlingly glossy excitement!" He figured he'd hang around a while longer and see if the next issues could live up to all that hype.

They did — and more. By the time he finished the Velcro and Mordillo trilogies, he was in love with MOKF. In love with it, yes, though not convinced it would avoid cancellation. Are people going to buy this, he wondered. He'd seen books get "too good" before, and they usually ended up being cut down in their primes. Why should MOKF be any different?

Yet it was. There have been changes since the strip became "too good" — the proliferation of fill-ins after Paul left, the very quiet phasing out of Jim Craig and the very quiet phasing in of Mike Zeck — and as each of those changes occurred he has wondered: Is this it? Is this going to knock the series off its pinnacle of quality and start it on the downhill slide? But each time his fears have been groundless; he still goes around calling MOKF "the best comic on the stands" and gets precious little argument over the point, just the way it was when Doug and Paul were getting things into high gear.

Now he looks at MASTER OF KUNG FU #100 and he can't help but smile "Special Double-Sized 100th Anniversary Issue!" A shiny, sparkling gem of a tale, not only featuring the work of soon-to-be-ex-Chi-artist Mike Zeck but also throwing a sixteen-page spotlight on soon-to-be-new-Chi-artist Gene Day.

MOKF #100. Not bad for a strip that was obviously a TV ripoff, he thinks. Not bad for "the best comic on the stands" either.

MOKF was never "too good"; since #29 it's been just good enough. The comics reader who got started so long ago with DAREDEVIL #33 hopes you can keep it up for another hundred issues.

He'll be with you for each and every one.

Bruce Canwell
Rural Route #2, Box 214
Bowdoin, ME 04008

NEXT ISSUE: The mystery of the Dark Angel deepens in a most unexpected way. Plus — the return of one of the deadliest KUNG FU villains: Zaran the Weapons Master! Be here in thirty!

THE MARVEL BULLPEN MAN-IN-THE-STREET REPORTER ASKS...

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF
MOON KNIGHT?

PERSONALLY, I CAN'T SEE HIM.

... BUT YOU CAN. EVERY MONTH.
AT COMIC BOOK SHOPS EVERYWHERE.



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF
MOON KNIGHT?

HE'S NOT SO HOT.

... BUT YOU CAN. EVERY MONTH.
AT COMIC BOOK SHOPS EVERYWHERE.



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MOON KNIGHT?

DON'T BUY HIS COMIC BOOK.
BUY HULK'S COMIC BOOK.

OR ELSE...

... BUT YOU CAN. EVERY MONTH.
AT COMIC BOOK SHOPS EVERYWHERE.

NO!

